

KENOSHA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY BOARD CHAMBERS COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

February 12, 2008

The **Regular Meeting** was called to order by Chairman Rose at 7:30 p.m., in the County Board Room located in the Administration Building.

Roll call was taken.

Present: Supervisors Grady, Rossow, Rose, Kessler, Huff, Kubicki, Marrelli, Carbone, Arrington, Faraone, Ronald Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, Nudo, Moore, Molinaro, Wisnefski, Jackson, Noble, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Excused: Supervisors Booth, Clark, West, Roger Johnson.

Present: 24. Excused: 4.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Rob Zerban, 5406 2nd Avenue, stated when considering the new county building, it's imperative the county considers all options that are available, maybe something jointly with the city in the downtown area or within the city. He doesn't think it's a good idea to spend 20 million dollars of the taxpayer's money on a location outside of the city when 70% of the county's taxpayers live in the city.

Fred Storz 1812 36th St., spoke on behalf of the professionals that work at the Kenosha County Detention Center. In September or October 2007, the board approved the hiring of ten new correctional officers. Seven were to be assigned to the detention center, and three assigned to downtown. In the 2008 budget four new direct supervision officers were also approved for the detention center. Most of this was due to the expansion of the jail. The expansion is complete, there are now inmates in the new area. In September 2007 there were seventy-four direct supervision officers at the detention center. At that time, before the expansion, seventy-six officers were full staff. With the seven that were approved and the four added in the new budget, that would bring full staff to eighty-seven. As of today there are seventy-four officers on line and three that are in training. Two more will start February 19th, but there is a four month training period which is then followed by 120 hours of state certified training. When the new dorm is opened, it will generate three hundred, 8 hour shifts of overtime per month. They would like to know where the new staff is. It's not safe for the inmates, it's not safe for the officers.

Pam Stevens, 8111 Sheridan Rd. stated she is the vice president of Kenosha Unified School Board and the Out Reach Specialist for Kenosha County I-94 Highway Expansion Project. The construction of the I-94 project will start in 2009. There will be a lot of job opportunities for the residents of Kenosha County. Wisconsin Department of Transportation will offer free training to Kenosha County residents. She would like some of the Kenosha County elected officials to be on some of the committees that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation has.

Gina Carver 11724 241st Avenue, Trevor, stated is the Medical Examiners Office Manager. She feels it is important for the Medical Examiners office to be in a campus like setting instead of a stand-alone facility for security reasons. They are in charge of protecting evidence, which include the decedents, medication, most of which are controlled substances and items of a sensitive nature. In their current facility they have been broken into on at least four occasions. Some people feel the Medical Examiners office should be located in

the city because that is where the majority of the funeral and nursing homes are. In 2007 they responded to 291 scenes only six where at a nursing home. They work with funeral homes not only in Kenosha County, but also in other counties and other states. Last year they did 215 autopsies and inspections, and only eighty-eight of those had next of kin in Kenosha. She feels locating the Medical Examiner's office to the Kenosha County Job Center would hinder their response times to scenes, and she feels they should be located in the middle of the county. She believes the facility should be built with the operational needs of today as well as the geographical needs of the future.

Jim Moore, 9218 74th Pl., spoke regarding projects being considered locally and by the state, including the county spending 20 million dollars for a new complex at Hwys 45 and 50. The price tags for these projects aren't coming from cash on hand but rather additional tax revenue and deferred debt. Meanwhile new home construction in Kenosha County is down 27%, the lowest in five years. Foreclosures are up 62%, higher than the state wide average. Overall consumer spending is down, a recession seems more inevitable than ever. His request as a taxpayer to the county board is to please consider the cost of the 45 & 50 building project in light of our present economy. The county board has the responsibility to tax fairly. Is now the time to put this additional burden on the taxpayer?

Mary Mainland 9730 S Fox Run, Oak Creek, she has been the Medical Examiner for Kenosha County for just over three years. Her employees and customers have had to suffer with the many inadequacies of the old Brookside building. They have always been under the impression that Brookside was a temporary home. They have spent countless hours on the proposed emergency center project. When placement of the medical examiners office within that campus was questioned, they physically toured and seriously considered the proposed options. None were adequate for their specialized needs, nor were they economically feasible. She feels the best place for their facility would be in the center of Kenosha County for the reasons given by her office manager Gina Carver. They are opposed to being hastily placed in the wrong location for the wrong reasons.

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman Rose spoke regarding the County Executive's recent indictment and wanted to emphasize to the board and to the citizens of Kenosha that he like any other citizen is presumed innocent. He also stated that during the criminal case the County Executive should take a leave of absence from his position and not exercise the powers of the executive during the pending case.

SUPERVISOR REPORTS

Supervisor Rossow stated Supervisor Booth will be having surgery Friday for a brain tumor. Her spirits are up and the doctors say six to eight weeks for recovery. She stated thoughts and prayers would be appreciated.

Supervisor Grady stated he attended a meeting at Mahone Middle School regarding the proposed reconstruction of the intersection at Hwy K (60th St.) and Greenbay Rd. There have been numerous accidents in this intersection and it is recommended that some reconfiguration be done to eliminate the dedicated north and southbound right hand turn lanes. There will be a pre-construction public meeting in June or July with actual construction beginning July and finishing in November. The remaining projects on Greenbay Rd. will be done in 2009.

Supervisor Michel stated he spoke with the Judiciary and Law Committee and they will not be having a meeting tomorrow due to the fact they will not have a quorum.

Supervisor Noble stated as bad as this winter has been, the county's salt supply should last through the rest of the season. Lots of the other counties are out of salt and are calling our county wanting some of ours. He also stated that last week at the Highway and Parks meeting they had a review of a grant application for local road improvements. The committee authorized the staff to apply for an application for intersection reconstruction for Hwys C & MB and Hwys Q & U. If successful, construction will begin in 2009.

Supervisor Noble attended a winter highway conference, and for the first time, the highway trust fund is projected to be in a deficit in 2009. Work zone safety is a high priority for Wisconsin Highway Association. WCA was also there and he received some legislation reviews. There were two tracks for the break out sessions, one for general and one for technical. He went to the general sessions and learned about round a bouts. Insurance Institute of Highway Safety converted 24 intersections to round a bouts. They measured the accidents for a year before they were converted and for a year after. There were 35% less collisions, 75% less injuries and 90% fewer fatalities. They presume the less fatalities are because there aren't any T-bone accidents. There are four round a bout intersections in the planning stage for Kenosha County. Three are in Pleasant Prairie and one in Somers. Another break out session was on rustic roads. There are 600 miles of rustic roads in Wisconsin and only 3 miles are in Kenosha County.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

32. Silvana Presta to serve on the Kenosha County Workforce Development Board.

33. Manoj Babu to serve on the Kenosha County Workforce Development Board.

Chairman Rose referred County Executive Appointments 32 & 33 to Human Services.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolutions - one reading

95. From Supervisor Edward Kubicki a resolution to locate the Medical Examiner at the Kenosha County Job Center.

Chairman Rose referred Resolution 95 to Building and Grounds Committee and Human Services.

96. From Building & Grounds, Judiciary & Law, Human Services and Finance Committees a Resolution to Release Funds for Architectural and Engineering Services to determine updated 2008 Construction Cost Estimates and Construction Timelines for a Phased Approach to the Kenosha County Emergency Center (KCEC)

It was moved by Supervisor Singer to adopt Resolution 96. Seconded by Supervisor Rossow.

Roll call vote.

Ayes: Supervisors Grady, Rossow, Kessler, Huff, Kubicki, Marrelli, Carbone, Arrington, Faraone, Ronald Johnson, Michel, O'Day, Singer, Nudo, Moore, Molinaro, Wisniewski, Jackson, Noble, Breunig, Haas, Elverman, Ekornaas.

Nays: Supervisor Rose.

Ayes: 23. Nays: 1.

Motion carried.

97. From the Highway and Parks regarding Kenosha County Public Snowmobile Trail.

It was moved by Supervisor Noble to adopt Resolution 97. Seconded by Supervisor Haas.

Motion carried.

CLAIMS

- 26. Tim Driscoll - Mailbox damage.
- 27. Ren Sanfilip - Cracked windshield.

Chairman Rose referred Claim 26 & 27 to Corporation Counsel.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Supervisor Molinaro stated the Town of Somers put together a very informative and well-attended meeting to discuss placement of sex offenders primarily in the Town of Somers but also in Kenosha County. He asked the Legislative Committee place something on their agenda regarding placement of a significant number of convicted felons in a specific location. A business owner in the City of Kenosha can house any multitude of offenders in his establishment without any requirement to disclose that to the general public let alone to the taxpayers of Kenosha County. This is a gap in the system that Kenosha County needs to take a look at addressing.

It was moved by Supervisor Elverman to approve the January 15th, 2008 minutes. Seconded by Supervisor Faraone.

Motion carried.

It was moved by Supervisor Wisnefski to adjourn. Seconded by Supervisor Kessler.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 P.M.

Prepared by: Edie LaMothe
Chief Deputy
Submitted by: Edna R. Highland
County Clerk